



## *The Armor of Faith*

### Topic Summary: Faith, Family, and Social Issues *Part XI: Midwest Catholic Family Conference*



*Midwest Catholic Family Conference  
Wichita, Kansas, Aug 2019  
Public Domain*

### **Introduction**

[Greeting:] → Welcome to “The Armor of Faith,” a show where we hope to bring our listeners closer to the Word of God and the blessings we receive through living in the fullness of the Catholic faith. My name is Doug and I will be your host as we discuss the blessings of the Church Christ built upon Peter.

I am joined today by my panel: [names]

Helen is a lay-Dominican and has a love for music ministry. The Dominicans, I should mention, are also known as the Order of Preachers. Sharon is still our token cradle Catholic on the Armor of Faith Radio team, and, as everyone knows by now, I am simply here to ask questions because the result is much better if I do not ask answers. To answer my questions and correct my pronunciation is why we have our panelists, so welcome to our panelists as well as to our listeners.

We are also joined by special guest panelists, Jared (our son), Dora (his wife), and our two eldest grandchildren; Abigail and Gabriel.

Let us open with a prayer:

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Heavenly Father, we lift up our hearts in thanks and praise for this opportunity to open and share your Holy Word this day. We pray that You are with us and all our listeners as we share with one another the blessings of faith. We pray You will grant us wisdom and understanding as we seek to learn Your Holy Truth.

Dear Lord, we also lift up the prayers in our prayer basket. You know what is written on each one and you know the hearts of those who offer their thanks and praise and their petitions for the blessings of Your great mercy.

We pray especially today for Carol as she recovers from her surgery. We also, dear Lord, pray for the conversion of souls and the health and unity of Your Holy Church.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit we pray. Amen.

If you would like to add your prayers to our prayer basket, send us an email at [armoroffaithradio@gmail.com](mailto:armoroffaithradio@gmail.com). Please include the word “prayer” in the subject line so that we will give it priority and capture it for our prayer basket. Just so you know, Sharon and I lift up our prayers with those in the Armor of Faith Radio prayer basket during our daily prayers.

If you haven't discovered, yet, you can also listen to Armor of Faith Radio on demand and on the go using your smartphone. In addition to [wcatradio.com/armoroffaith](http://wcatradio.com/armoroffaith), we are available through a number of streaming services, such as iHeart Radio, Spreaker, iTunes, and CastBox, among others. Simply search for “Armor of Faith Radio” and select the episode you desire. We will be happy to keep you company wherever you are and wherever you are waiting.

We would also like to ask for your assistance to help share our discussions. If you find an episode or series, which caused you to take a moment and think and you would like to share with family or friends, you only need to copy the URL of the show to which you are listening and drop it into an email or share it through social media. Several of the streaming services through which we are available on demand also have share options, so please help us to spread the good news of our faith in Jesus Christ.

### **Faith Event Announcements:**

Of course, we hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and that during our celebration with family and friends, we also had the opportunity to reflect on what the Christ Child brought to the world.

As we come to an end to our year, it is an opportunity to reflect on our experiences, what we have learned, and what we want for our future, also keeping in mind our eternal future. As we prepare for the New Year, we recommend spending some time with a calendar and look for the opportunities to learn, reflect on, celebrate, and live our faith. A reference which may be of assistance from which to view the coming liturgical year can be found by entering “Catholic Liturgical Calendar 2020 pdf” into a search engine. You can also find a link to the USCCB Liturgical Calendar for the United States in the topic summary for this show. Simply go to <https://wcatradio.com/armoroffaithstudyguides> and select episode 126.

<http://www.usccb.org/about/divine-worship/liturgical-calendar/upload/2020cal.pdf>

### **Why Catholics Do What We Do:**

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church:

(CCC: 1285)

Baptism, the Eucharist, and the sacrament of Confirmation together constitute the "sacraments of Christian initiation," whose unity must be safeguarded. It must be

explained to the faithful that the reception of the sacrament of Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace. For "by the sacrament of Confirmation, [the baptized] are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit. Hence they are, as true witnesses of Christ, more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith by word and deed."

So we covered the First of three sacraments of initiation, Baptism. Now let us explore Confirmation.

This is the sacrament from which the Holy Spirit is called upon to infuse us with all the gifts and graces that we need to carry on with our task of being strong and brave for Jesus Christ. When I was studying for my Confirmation, I was told that I was becoming a soldier for Christ. This idea of being a soldier for Christ has been and continues to be important to me. I believe that this is what Confirmation is about; gaining the ability to continue learning about the church of Christ and being able to defend it. Through the gifts of the Holy Spirit we are able to understand more fully the teachings of Christ and the Apostles. Through our understanding, we are able to explain the original teachings, and thus, the future generations will also know the truths of Jesus and His church.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church explains the history of the Holy Spirit which comes to us through Confirmation as explained in paragraphs 1286-1289:

(CCC: 1286)

In the Old Testament the prophets announced that the Spirit of the Lord would rest on the hoped-for Messiah for his saving mission. The descent of the Holy Spirit on Jesus at his baptism by John was the sign that this was he who was to come, the Messiah, the Son of God. He was conceived of the Holy Spirit; his whole life and his whole mission are carried out in total communion with the Holy Spirit whom the Father gives him "without measure."

(CCC: 1287)

This fullness of the Spirit was not to remain uniquely the Messiah's, but was to be communicated to *the whole messianic people*. On several occasions Christ promised this outpouring of the Spirit, a promise which he fulfilled first on Easter Sunday and then more strikingly at Pentecost. Filled with the Holy Spirit the apostles began to proclaim "the mighty works of God," and Peter declared this outpouring of the Spirit to be the sign of the messianic age. Those who believed in the apostolic preaching and were baptized received the gift of the Holy Spirit in their turn.

(CCC: 1288)

"From that time on the apostles, in fulfillment of Christ's will, imparted to the newly baptized by the laying on of hands the gift of the Spirit that completes the grace of Baptism. For this reason in the *Letter to the Hebrews* the doctrine concerning Baptism and the laying on of hands is listed among the first elements of Christian instruction. The imposition of hands is rightly recognized by the Catholic tradition as the origin of the sacrament of Confirmation, which in a certain way perpetuates the grace of Pentecost in the Church."

(CCC: 1289) Very early, the better to signify the gift of the Holy Spirit, an anointing with perfumed oil (*chrism*) was added to the laying on of hands. This anointing highlights the name "Christian," which means "anointed" and derives from that of Christ himself whom God "anointed with the Holy Spirit." This rite of anointing has continued ever since, in both East and West. For this reason the Eastern Churches call this sacrament *Chrismation*, anointing with *chrism*, or *myron* which means "chrism." In the West, the term *Confirmation* suggests that this sacrament both confirms and strengthens baptismal grace.

Next week we will talk about the gifts of the Holy Spirit and what they mean.

**Have a blessed week All. Remember, you are loved dearly by God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit and yes, by us as well.**

### **Discussion:**

During the course of our last discussion, we talked about a number of concerns and faith issues which are faced by those who are afflicted, aging, or terminally ill. Some of these issues have become quite political in our society. Some look to our government to solve these problems, but too many politicians evaluate solutions more from the perspective of political ideologies and what will gain them votes as opposed to workable, reasonable, and compassionate solutions.

We do not need to wait while our political parties wallow in their virtue signaling and political posturing as they ponder their paths of power. We have the ability to take action on our own. We simply need to look at the need around us and ask the Holy Spirit to guide us to how we may use the gifts and talents God created within us so that we can contribute to the help and care of those in need. Not everyone is expected to be a doctor, nurse, or healthcare provider. Remember what we were taught by Saint Paul in 1 Corinthians 12:4-11:

(1 Corinthians 12:4-11)

*4 There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; 5 there are different forms of service but the same Lord; 6 there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. 7 To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit. 8 To one is given through the Spirit the expression of wisdom; to another the expression of knowledge according to the same Spirit; 9 to another faith by the same Spirit; to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit; 10 to another mighty deeds; to another prophecy; to another discernment of spirits; to another varieties of tongues; to another interpretation of tongues. 11 But one and the same Spirit produces all of these, distributing them individually to each person as he wishes.*

So, we are all given some talent. It may not be the talent by which the next medical miracle will come, but it may be the talent through which a spiritual miracle is shared. Sometimes, the only things we have to give to someone in need is time and love, but that may be the most important gift needed in the moment by someone who may be suffering, not just physically, but maybe spiritually. No matter our talent, we all can share the gift of love. Let us allow the Holy Spirit to

lead us to our opportunities to help fulfill God's will, especially His call to care for those who are in need of assistance and care.

As you may have noticed during the course of this series, we have been talking to a number of folks we met at the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Midwest Catholic Family Conference conducted last August in Wichita, Kansas. As we begin to close out this series, we thought we would talk about the conference itself given it was the people we met at this conference which inspired this series concerning "Faith, Family, and Social Issues."

Our attendance at the conference was actually as a result of a recommendation by our daughter-in-law. We were planning a family vacation with our son and his family. We originally planned to meet at a conference being conducted in Colorado on the same weekend and then travel back to our place for a week to continue our adventures together.

The plans were all set, then, our daughter-in-law called and asked if we would be willing to meet them in Wichita for a Catholic conference designed for the whole family. Not a problem, we said, we will be happy to meet you there.

I confess, I did not prepare for this conference with any intent of meeting people or networking, rather, my focus was on being able to spend time with our son, his wife, and our grandchildren. This was just going to be a venue to have some fun together, which we did.

**(Question 1:** While we have been to conferences before, this was the first conference we attended with a specific focus of family and faith. So, what were your first impressions as we entered and walked around the venue?)

- Organization
- Rooms for Adoration and Reconciliation
- Politeness of volunteers
- Vendor area
- Areas for adult programs
- Areas for children's and special needs programs
- Concessions
- Message Board/paging screens

**(Question 2:** Of course, throughout the year, there are various conferences around the country with different themes and focus. A number of them, though, are presented at the adult level. Children, of course, can attend, and child care may be available, but programs are not always adjusted to age level. What are some of the blessings of attending a family conference such as the Midwest Catholic Family Conference?)

- Programs adjusted for different ages and special needs
- Theme alignments to enable parents to share with their children
- Bringing together families of faith to share with one another
- Discussion of subjects important to faith, family, youth, and our eternal future
- Opportunities to learn about ministries and vocations

**(Question 3:** When we elect to go to a conference, there are a variety of opportunities through which to learn and grow. **When you go to conferences, what do you look to gain from them?)**

- Inspiration
- Education
- Ideas for learning the faith
- Ideas for living the faith
- Opportunities to examine our worship
- Opportunities to live our worship

**(Question 4:** Of course, one of the main purposes of attending a conference is listening to and learning from the guest speakers. **Who were some of the speakers you remembered and what impressed you about their talks?)**

Father Dennis McManus → How God saves and spiritual warfare  
Father Donald Calloway → Mary, Joseph, and the Rosary  
Steve Ray → Shroud of Turin  
Dr. Ray Guarendi → Marriage, children, love and discipline  
Hudson Byblow → Coming Out Catholic

To see the program outline for all ages, our listeners can visit:

<https://catholicfamilyconference.org/>

**(Question 5:** As we discussed earlier, the conference had a vendor area, but this just wasn't an area where attendees could buy things, there were opportunities to learn about various ministries as well. **What were some of the ministries you remember being represented there?)**

- Vocational ministries
- Life ministries
- Marriage ministries
- Parenting ministries
- Men's ministries
- End of life ministries
- Marian media
- Music ministries
- Third order information
- Catholic colleges
- Kid-Catholic

**(Question 6:** Some of our listeners may have never attended a conference before. **What would be some advice for preparing to attend a conference and optimize the experience?)**

- Engage the whole family in the planning process
- Family friendly place to stay

- Routes to and from venue – assess travel time – online map recon
- Surrounding restaurants (hours of operation)
- Select rally point if anyone is separated or lost
- Prioritize speakers
- Prioritize activities
- Prioritize time for the vendor tables
- Assess traffic and parking
- Schedule, but remember, flexibility

## Quotes:

– *St. Ignatius de Loyola*

Teach us to give and not count the cost.

– *St. Augustine*

Pray as though everything depended on God. Work as though everything depended on you.

– *Saint John Paul II*

As the family goes, so goes the nation and so goes the whole world in which we live.

– *Saint Theresa of Calucutta*

If you want to bring happiness to the whole world, go home and love your family.

## Final Thoughts:

During the course of this series, we discussed a number of family, faith, and social issues which we must navigate during the spectrum of life. It is cliché to say that children are our future, but it is also very true, for what we teach our children is what will become the foundation for how our children will lead their lives and for what our children will teach generations to come.

How we engage our children will influence how they engage us as our years progress. We must have a balance of love and discipline, for when we allow these to fall out of balance or become inconsistent, we create challenges. We may not see the consequences in the moment; in fact, we may not see them at all, but they will be there as we interact or fail to interact with one another.

If we were perfect, we could lead perfect lives; but of course, we are not. That does not mean we should not try the best we can. Scripture provides us with insight as to what God asks of us and the importance of family, but it is not easy for any of us to read alone. The time we spend with our children, helping them to learn, will also influence our own learning. Indeed, we must recognize that all which God has laid out for us is to enable our life long journey.

The issues of family, though, are not just about the time of childhood, but the full spectrum of life. The tools we give our children by which to experience and interpret the world will follow them into adulthood. They will become the doers and decision makers of our society. Let us enable them with love. Let us also enable them, not just with education, but also with experience.

As we consider the range of issues and traps for the hearts and minds of our children, we must remember, they will be molded by those who engage them. If we are absent in our emotions or our values, someone else will be present, most likely, someone pulling them to darkness. As we engage our children in prayer, learning, ministry, and life activities, we have the opportunity to provide them with what will enable them to influence the future. Let us fill them with blessings and grace and help them put on the armor of truth, righteousness, peace, faith, salvation, and the Word of the gospel.

Just a reminder, blessings are an invocation of God's power and care and grace is God's undeserved help.

**Wrap Up:** Well, our time has come to an end. We hope you will be able to join us next week as we conclude this series on faith, family, and social issues with special guest Father Carl Wertin, the Vocations Director of the Diocese of Pueblo.

Let us conclude with a prayer: Heavenly Father, we thank you for this opportunity to open and discuss Your Holy Word. We pray that as we go our separate ways, You will continue to walk with us and help us to see how we may put on the armor of **truth, righteousness, peace, faith, salvation**, and the **Word** of the gospel not only for the benefit of our lives, but also the lives of all who cross our path. In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, we pray. Amen.

Thank you all and God bless.

**Next Session:** Faith, Family, and Social Issues - Part XII: Vocations

### **Why Catholics Do What We Do References:**

USCCB; (May 2016); [Catechism of the Catholic Church](http://ccc.usccb.org/flipbooks/catechism/index.html); United States Conference of Catholic Bishops; <http://ccc.usccb.org/flipbooks/catechism/index.html>

### **Discussion References:**

Midwest Catholic Family Conference; (2019); <https://catholicfamilyconference.org/>

The New American Bible, Revised Edition (NABRE); (9 Mar 2011); United States Conference of Catholic Bishops; <http://usccb.org/bible/books-of-the-bible/index.cfm>